AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A computer-based system that facilitates optimizing utility of a communication, the system comprising:

an identifier that identifies one or more communication channels that facilitate maximizing the utility of the communication;

a communication group manager that manages a group of communicating parties to facilitate optimizing the utility of the communication along a communication channel identified by the identifier; and

a groupwise communication coordinator that coordinates communication between a subset of the managed group of communicating parties to facilitate maximizing the utility of the communication.

2-17. (Cancelled)

18.   (Original) The system of claim 1, where the communication occurs between one or more contactors and one or more contactees and where the identifier comprises:

a processor;

a preference resolver that analyzes a contactee preference data and a contactor preference data and produces a resolved preference data;

a context analyzer that analyzes a contactee context data and a contactor context data and produces an analyzed context data;

a channel analyzer that analyzes one or more communication channels between a contactor and a contactee and produces a communication channel data; and

a communication establisher that establishes a communication between the contactor and the contactee based, at least in part, on the resolved preference data, the analyzed context data, communicating party selection data and the communication channel data.

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19.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether two or more communicating parties are concurrently engaged in a related activity, or are likely to become concurrently engaged in a related activity.

20.   (Cancelled)

21.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether two or more communicating parties are concurrently engaged in a similar activity, or are likely to become concurrently engaged in a similar activity.

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether two or more communicating parties are concurrently processing one or more related documents, or are likely to concurrently process one or more related documents.

24.   (Cancelled).

25.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether two or more communicating parties are concurrently viewing one or more related documents, or are likely to concurrently view one or more related documents.

26.   (Cancelled).

27.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether two or more communicating parties are concurrently engaged in a shared project, or are likely to become concurrently engaged in a shared project.

28.   (Cancelled).

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29.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether two or more communicating parties are scheduled to communicate within a pre-defined period of time, or have communicated within a pre-defined period of time.

30.   (Cancelled).

31.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether two or more communicating parties are scheduled to meet within a pre-defined period of time, or have met within a pre-defined period of time.

32.   (Cancelled).

33.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether a communicating party has engaged in one or more pre-defined activities of interest within a pre-defined period of time, or is likely to engage in one or more pre-defined activities of interest within a pre-defined period of time.

34.   (Cancelled).

35.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon whether a communicating party has purchased one or more pre-defined items of interest, or has registered an interest in one or more pre-defined items of interest.

36.   (Cancelled).

37.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the utility optimization based at least in part upon the degree to which a communicating party is trusted by one or more other communicating parties.

38.   (Original) The system of claim 1 where an expected utility for the communication is computed by $E[u(d_i, c)] = s_j \in S \sum m (s_j, d_i) p(s_j | d_i, c)$ where $p(s_j | d_i, c)$ represents a probability of achieving a future state s_j give a decision d concerning situation c, capturing communication

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channel parameters, nature of a contactor and a context of the a contactee.

39.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, where the utility of the communication is based on at least one of a cost and a benefit of the communication to at least one of a contactor and a contactee; wherein at least one of the cost and the benefit of the communication is related to one or more preferences of at least one of the contactor and the contactee.

40.   (Cancelled).

41.   (Original) The system of claim 39, where a utility function employed to compute the utility of the communication is a combination of functions that separately consider at least one of the cost and the benefit of the communication to at least one of the contactor and contactee.

42.   (Original) The system of claim 39, where a utility function employed to compute the utility of the communication is a multi-linear combination of one or more weighted terms associated with at least one of the contactor and contactee.

43-44. (Cancelled).

45.   (Original) A computer useable medium having embodied thereon computer executable components of the system of claim 1.

46.   (Original) The system of claim 1 where the group wise communication coordinator comprises:

        a group wise communication assembler that assembles the group of communicating parties, and

        a group wise communication scheduler that schedules a time for the group communication that maximizes the utility of the communication.

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47.   (Original) The system of claim 46, where the groupwise communication assembler:

identifies one or more group member classifications required for the group communication;

identifies a minimal number of communicating parties from each of the one or more group member classifications required for the group communication, and

verifies that at least the minimal number of communicating parties from each of the one or more group member classifications are available for the group communication.

48-68. (Cancelled)

69.   (Original) A computer implemented system for optimizing the utility of a communication involving a group member, the system comprising:

means for creating a group;

means for managing a group; and

means for a recipient to communicate with a group member, where the utility of the communication is optimized based, at least in part, on a preference, and a context associated with the group to which the member belongs.

70-86. (Cancelled)